



**The Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg
(Gettysburg National Cemetery)**

GENERAL INFORMATION

National Cemetery acreage: 17

Date burials began: October 17, 1863

Date of completed burials: March 1864

Date of dedication: November 19, 1863

Civil War burials, total: 3,564

Civil War burials, unknown (state, regiment & name unknown): 979

National Cemetery Brick Rostrum: Built in 1879 & restored in 2012.

Burials in National Cemetery, post-Civil War: 3,307

National Cemetery Annex acreage: 6

Burials in National Cemetery Annex: 1,666 (grave sites)

Presidents who have spoken in the national cemetery at Gettysburg: Abraham Lincoln (1863), Rutherford B. Hayes (1878), Theodore Roosevelt (1904), Calvin Coolidge (1928), Herbert Hoover (1930), Franklin D. Roosevelt (1934), Dwight D. Eisenhower (1955)

Notable burials:

Captain William E. Miller, 3rd PA Cavalry & Medal of Honor recipient.

Pvt. George Nixon, Company B, 73rd Ohio Infantry- grandfather of President Richard M. Nixon.

Pvt. Albert J. Lentz, Hdqtrs Company, 18th US Infantry - first man from Gettysburg killed in World War I at Cantigny, France in 1918.

One of the earliest monuments at Gettysburg is the Soldiers' National Monument, which stands in the center of the cemetery. The cornerstone was laid in 1865 but it was not until 1869 when the monument was complete and dedicated. The sculpture on the monument is the work American sculptor Randolph Rogers (1825-1892). The first memorial at Gettysburg stands in the Minnesota section- a granite urn dedicated to the memory of the men from that state that fell at Gettysburg. It was erected in the cemetery sometime before 1869. Other notable monuments and memorials in the cemetery include the New York State Monument (1893), the Lincoln Speech Memorial (1912), General Charles Collis Memorial (1906), and Maj. General John F. Reynolds statue (1871).

The Confederate Dead at Gettysburg: approximately 3,200 remains of southern soldiers killed at Gettysburg were relocated to cemeteries in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Richmond during the years 1871-1873. The projects were organized and funded by ladies' memorial associations in those states.

*ORDER OF CEREMONY IN THE DEDICATION OF THE NATIONAL CEMETERY AT GETTYSBURG,
NOVEMBER 19, 1863¹*

Music- Birgfield's Band ("Homage d'un Heros")

Prayer- Rev. T.H. Stockton, D.D.

Music- The Marine Band ("Old Hundred")

Oration- Hon. Edward Everett

Music- Musical Association of Baltimore (hymn composed by B.B. French, esq., entitled "Consecration Hymn" or "Ode")

Dedicatory Remarks- President Lincoln

Dirge- sung by choir selected for the occasion from Gettysburg churches (a composition by James Percival & Alfred Delaney)

Benediction- Rev. H.L. Baugher, D.D.

Participating Organizations, November 19, 1863:

The Marine Band

2nd US Artillery

US Cavalry detachment from Carlisle Barracks

Maj. General Darius Couch & Staff

20th PA Cavalry

Battery A, 5th US Artillery

Band of Fifth New York Heavy Artillery

5th New York Heavy Artillery

President Lincoln, Vice President Hamlin, Secretary Seward, Secretary Usher of Dept. of Interior, Secretary Welles, Dept. of Navy, Postmaster-general Montgomery Blair, Chief Marshall Ward Lamon, Brig. General Wright, General Doubleday, and General Gibbon.

Commissioners of different northern states

United States Sanitary Commission, Dr. W.F. Sewall

Odd Fellows Lodge No. 124

Hanover Lodge I.O.O.F., No. 334

Birgfield's Band of Philadelphia

Text of the Gettysburg Address as delivered by President Abraham Lincoln, November 19, 1863, at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg:

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

¹ *The Adams Sentinel*, November 24, 1863.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate - we can not consecrate - we can not hallow - this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Compiled by John Heiser, GETT

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